

Isaiah 58
A True Fast

Thinking I'm right when rebelling against God's word (1-2)

Declaring their rebellion (II Timothy 2:16-18) – **Scripture calls out people by name**
Daily seeking His ways – then ignoring His word (I Kings 22:7, 17, 28-30) – **He is Lord!**

Trying to fast without my heart in the right place (3-5) – **God is more interested in our hearts**

God is ignoring our fast, how can this be? (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16) – **Who is it for?**
Going your own way? (Isaiah 53:6 / Romans 1:28) – **God, do not let me go my own way.**
Giving yourself wholly to God – not just for one day (Joshua 24:15) – **daily surrendering**

True fasting (6-14) – **our lives given over to the Lord, seeking to please Him in all things**

Removing – the things in our lives that displease our LORD (Psalm 139:23-24)
Am I willing to let God search my heart and expose what needs to change?
Injustice – do we serve or use others? (I Corinthians 10:24 / Galatians 6:9-10)
Slavery – do we share the truth to free others from bondage? (John 8:31-36)
Poverty (Acts 2:44-45 / II Corinthians 8:13-14) – **How much of our resources are spent on luxuries the most of the world cannot imagine owning?**

Remembering – the things that please our LORD (I Timothy 2:1-6)
Am I praying and witnessing?
To honor the LORD (I Corinthians 6:9-10) – **I belong to Him**
To keep His Sabbath (Hebrews 4:11) **rest by doing His work, empowered by Him**
To do what pleases Him (Ephesians 5:10) – **to know and obey His will**

Results – the things the LORD will do for us (Romans 8:32) – **graciously give us all things**

He will guide (Proverbs 3:5-6 / Psalm 119:105 / John 16:13) – **Does He lead?**
He will satisfy (Isaiah 55:2 / I Peter 2:3 / John 7:37-38) – **lasting satisfaction**
He will bring you joy (I Peter 1:8-9) – **Am I filled with His joy (John 15:9-12)**

Discussion questions for Isaiah 58

Why do many Christians disconnect who they are (children of God) with how they live their lives? (Matthew 13:22 / I Timothy 6:17-19 / II Timothy 4:10 / Titus 1:10-16)

They are distracted by the cares of this world. They are trusting in themselves. The world and its enticements have led them astray. They don't truly know Him, so they put on a pretense in certain settings. They do not fear God. (Hebrews 4:12-13)

How can we live a life of integrity – that what we believe is truly seen in our lives? (Hebrews 11:13-16, 24-26 / John 15:5, 7-8 / Romans 6:11-14)

We must put our hope in God's promises, being willing to suffer now for His Name knowing that our eternal rewards are worth it. (Hebrews 11:6) We must abide in Christ. Our relationship with Him, walking in His presence and yielding our lives in obedience, is the only means by which we can live righteously. Everything I feel, think, say, or do must be offered to Him, that He might be glorified through my life.

What kind of fast does God choose for His people? (II Corinthians 7:1 / I Corinthians 10:23-31 / I Corinthians 6:9-20 / II Timothy 2:20-22 / Matthew 6:16-18 / Matthew 5:13-16)

He wants us to live in purity – giving up the things that are displeasing to Him. He wants us to put the needs of others before our own – giving up our rights and freedoms for the sake of others and doing everything for His glory. He wants us to honor Him with our bodies – giving up the desires of the flesh. He wants us to be vessels prepared to do His work – giving up the hindrances and distractions in our lives. He wants us to seek Him – not doing things to make ourselves look good to others. He wants our works to be done in His strength and for His glory – that others would glorify Him when they see our lives.

What is the evidence in our lives that we are in a right place with God? (Romans 12:1-2 /

Ephesians 5:15-18 / Philippians 4:10-13 / Hebrews 13:5-6 / I Thessalonians 5:16-18 / Hebrews

13:15) ***We are in tune with His will and purpose for our lives. We are content in our circumstances, knowing God will care for our needs. We are rejoicing and thanking God for all the wonderful things He is doing in our lives.***

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